What is claimed is:

1. A method for measuring the performance of a scalable network comprising:

   preparing a network under test for testing;

   sending, by a packet generator, a constant stream of packets through a

   5   network under test; and

   counting, by a packet count unit, received packets.

2. The method of claim 1, further including the act of establishing a corresponding routing path for a session to be tested.

3. The method of claim 2, further including the act of establishing a static IP route

   10   for each said session.

4. The method of claim 1, further including the act of establishing the peak performance rate as the highest rate with no packet dropout.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said act of sending a constant stream of packets includes the act of sending said constant stream of packets over an OC-3 level

   15   network.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said act of sending a constant stream of packets includes the act of sending said constant stream of packets over an OC-12 level network.

7. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program

   20   of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for measuring the performance of a scalable network, said method comprising:

   preparing the network for testing;

   sending, by a server, a constant stream of packets to a client node; and

   counting, by said client node, said received packets.

8. The program storage device of claim 7, said method further including the act of establishing a corresponding routing path for a session to be tested.

9. The program storage device of claim 8, said method further including the act of establishing a static IP route for each said session.

5   10. The program storage device of claim 7, said method further including the act of establishing the peak performance rate as the highest rate with no packet dropout.

11. The program storage device of claim 7, wherein said act of sending a constant stream of packets includes the act of sending said constant stream of packets over an OC-3 level network.

12. The program storage device of claim 7, wherein said act of sending a constant stream of packets includes the act of sending said constant stream of packets over an OC-12 level network.

13. An apparatus for measuring the performance of a scalable network comprising:

    means for preparing the network for testing;

    means for sending a constant stream of packets to a client node; and

    means for counting said received packets.

14. The method of claim 13, further including means for establishing a corresponding routing path for a session to be tested.

20   15. The method of claim 14, further including means for establishing a static IP route for each said session.

16. The method of claim 13, further including means for establishing the peak performance rate as the highest rate with no packet dropout.

17. The method of claim 13, means for sending a constant stream of packets includes

25   the act of sending said constant stream of packets over an OC-3 level network.

18. The method of claim 13, means for sending a constant stream of packets includes the act of sending said constant stream of packets over an OC-12 level network.

19. A system for measuring the performance of a scalable network comprising:

a packet generator for providing test packets to a network under test; and

a packet count unit for counting test packet received from said network under test.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein said network under test comprises a OC-3 level network.

21. The system of claim 19, wherein said network under test comprises a OC-12 level network.

22. The system of claim 19, wherein said test packets are provided in a constant stream to said network under test.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein the peak performance rate of said network under test is established as the highest rate with no packet dropout.

24. The system of claim 22, wherein the peak performance rate of said network under test is established as the maximum receive rate at a particular packet size with no packet dropout.

25. The system of claim 20, wherein said network under test includes two Fast Ethernet pathways.

26. The system of claim 21, wherein said network under test includes eight Fast Ethernet pathways.

27. The system of claim 21, wherein said network under test includes at least two Gigabit Ethernet pathways.

28. The system of claim 21, wherein said network under test includes four OC-3 pathways.

29. The system of claim 19, wherein said packet generator is configured using Pagent software.

30. The system of claim 19, wherein said system is configured to download a test configuration file from a TFTP server.

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